

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018262
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DRAFTED BY EUR/P:WGEHRON
APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN
S/S SGOLDSMITH
-----270218Z 059124 /73

O 270200Z JAN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 018262

TOVIP 19 PASS TO HARTMAN WITH V.P. PARTY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP

SUBJECT:PRESS ARTICLE ON FORD-APPOINTED AMBASSADORS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN JANU-
ARY 26 EDITION OF WASHINGTON STAR. VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL
ARTICLE APPEARED IN NEW YORK TIMES.

BEGIN TEXT. AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN COUNTRIES BEING
VISITED BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAVE GENERALLY NOT BEEN
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PAGE 02 STATE 018262

INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS IF THEY
WERE POLITICAL APPOINTEES OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION,
ACCORDING TO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

NO FORMAL MESSAGE WAS SENT TO THE ENVOYS ORDERING THEM TO
LEAVE THE COUNTRY OR TO BE INCONSPICUOUS WHEN MONDALE AR-
RIVED, A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID. BUT MOST HAVE DRAWN
THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY WERE NOT WANTED AND AT LEAST TWO
HAVE LEFT OR PLANNED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY WERE

ASSIGNED BEFORE MONDALE'S ARRIVAL, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY.

THIS HAS ANGERED SOME STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, WHO DESCRIBED THE OMISSION OF THE AMBASSADORS AS AN UNNECESSARY

EMBARRASSMENT. A CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL DENIED THAT ANY MALICE WAS INTENDED AND SAID THAT AT LEAST ONE ENVOY, ROBERT STRAUZ-HUPE, ASSIGNED TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, DID TAKE PART MONDAY IN TALKS.

ONE OFFICIAL, DEFENDING THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION, SAID THAT MONDALE WANTED TO HAVE AS CANDID A DISCUSSION AS POSSIBLE WITH THE EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE LEADERS AND FELT THAT IF A FORD ADMINISTRATION ENVOY WERE PRESENT, IT MIGHT INHIBIT DISCUSSION.

A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT ANNE ARMSTRONG, AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN, HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT THE TREATMENT ACCORDED HER. BUT A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID THAT SHE HAD SUGGESTED THAT SHE NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE MONDALE TALKS. IN ANY EVENT, HER ROLE WILL BE LIMITED TO PROTOCOL, SUCH AS BEING PRESENT AT THE AIRPORT WHEN MONDALE ARRIVES LATER IN THE WEEK.

KENNETH RUSH, AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, IS NOW IN PARIS BUT WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY THE DAY MONDALE ARRIVES, A UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 018262

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID. JOHN A. VOLPE, AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, LEFT ROME FOR THE UNITED STATES SUNDAY TO BE ABSENT WHEN MONDALE ARRIVES.

AND JAMES D. HODGSON, AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO, WILL BE IN JAPAN WHEN MONDALE ARRIVES BUT IS NOT SCHEDULED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE VISIT.

WALTER J. STOESSEL, JR., AMBASSADOR TO WEST GERMANY, WAS EXEMPT FROM THE ORDER BECAUSE HE IS A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER. THE POST OF AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM IS CURRENTLY VACANT. END TEXT.
VANCE

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